GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:607
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2005
WHOLESALE OUTLETS AT BLOCK LEVEL
Kushwaha Shri Narendra Kumar;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of irregularities in the distribution of foodgrains under the Public Distribution System (PDS) have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government has approved a scheme to open wholesale outlets at block level to remove these irregularities;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of blocks where such outlets are proposed to be set up in the first phase; and

(d) the time by which such outlets are likely to be made operational?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c), & (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.607 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 09.05.2005 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a): Yes Sir. Occasional cases of irregularities in the distribution of foodgrains under the Public Distribution System (PDS) have been brought to the notice of both the Central and State Governments. The Public Distribution System is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments wherein the Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of foodgrains upto the Principal Distribution Centres of FCI and the responsibility for identification of beneficiaries, issue of the ration cards and distribution of foodgrains to them through the vast network of about 4.78 lakh fair price shops, lies with respective State Governments.

(b), (c) & (d): The Public Distribution System presently covers wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene. Presumably the Hon`ble Member is referring to the proposed scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas relating to kerosene, where a pilot project covering 10% of blocks in the country has recently been approved by the Government for strengthening the distribution network of PDS kerosene with a view to working towards ensuring that this product is made available to the targeted consumers and is not diverted for adulteration. The scheme proposes setting up wholesale storage facilities at block level, with storage tanks and calibrated dispensing units; creation of 5-10 sub-wholesale points within the block to facilitate deliveries to retail outlets; and involving Panchayati Raj Institutions in monitoring the implementation of the scheme.